

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL NO. 09-087
v.	*	SECTION: "A"
KENDRA JOSEPH	*	

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

The defendant, **KENDRA JOSEPH**, has agreed to plead guilty to the one-count bill of information charging her with theft from a program receiving federal funds in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666 (a)(1)(A).

Should this matter have gone to trial, the government would have proven, through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible tangible exhibits, the following facts, beyond a reasonable doubt, to support the allegations in the bill of information now pending against the defendant:

An agent from the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support ("Louisiana OFS") and/or the United States Department of Agriculture would testify that the defendant, **KENDRA JOSEPH**, was employed at the Louisiana OFS in

Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana in the Eastern District of Louisiana from September 2002 through April of 2008. The agent would testify that the Louisiana OFS is a governmental agency of the State of Louisiana charged with the responsibility of determining the eligibility of individuals for food stamps and public assistance, and to administer the payment of food stamp assistance to qualified individuals. Those benefits are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, in amounts in excess of \$10,000 per calendar year.

An agent from the Louisiana OFS would testify that Hurricane Katrina struck southeastern Louisiana on or about August 29, 2005 and that Louisiana OFS was responsible for determining the eligibility of individuals for disaster food stamp benefits and administering the payment of assistance to qualified individuals. Disaster food stamps were provided to eligible participants in the form of an Electronic Benefit Transfer (“EBT”) card.

The Louisiana OFS officer would testify that **KENDRA JOSEPH**, in her capacity as a Social Services Analyst, had the authority to determine whether or not an individual qualified for foods stamps and/or public assistance. **KENDRA JOSEPH** also had the authority to disburse EBT cards to individuals that were loaded with funds that they could use to purchase food.

KENDRA JOSEPH has agreed, and a supervisor from the Louisiana OFS would testify, that when hired by Louisiana OFS, the defendant was trained and instructed in the

correct policy and procedures to do her job as an Eligibility Examiner and subsequently, as a Social Services Analyst. This included, but was not limited to, the Code of Federal Regulations applicable to the Department, state laws, state rules and state regulations, as well as the policies of the Department.

KENDRA JOSEPH has agreed, and documents and testimony of a Louisiana OFS officer would show, that from on or about September 2005 and continuing through January 2006, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **KENDRA JOSEPH**, being an agent and employee of the Louisiana OFS, did intentionally misapply and knowingly convert to the use of others benefits and/or property valued at \$8,679.00. The defendant, **KENDRA JOSEPH**, did these acts by entering false information into the Louisiana OFS computer system about friends and family members in order to help them obtain disaster food stamps, in the form of EBT cards. The friends and family members that **KENDRA JOSEPH** assisted would not have qualified for the benefits or would not have qualified for the amount of benefits, had the defendant not entered false information into the computer system.

A Louisiana OFS officer would testify that the defendant was an experienced Social Service Analyst, familiar with the policies and procedures of the Louisiana OFS, and knew that she was not supposed to be working on the applications of friends and family members, even during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. An agent from the

Louisiana OFS would testify that the stolen funds were valued at \$8,679.00, and owned by or under the care, custody and control of the Louisiana OFS.

SHARAN E. LIEBERMAN	DATE
Assistant United States Attorney	

KENDRA JOSEPH	DATE
Defendant	

ROBERT PASTOR	DATE
Counsel for the Defendant	